

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

WARREN OSTRANDER,)	
)	Case No. 5:15-cv-11526
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	COMPLAINT
)	
TATE & KIRLIN ASSOCIATES, INC.,)	
)	JURY DEMANDED
Defendant.)	

Now comes the Plaintiff, WARREN OSTRANDER, by and through his attorneys, and for his Complaint against the Defendant TATE & KIRLIN ASSOCIATES, INC., Plaintiff alleges and states as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action for damages for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.*; the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337 and 1367, and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d). This jurisdiction includes supplemental jurisdiction with respect to pendent state law claims.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to this claim occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff is an individual who was at all relevant times residing in Sand Creek, Michigan.

5. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), as she is a natural person allegedly obligated to pay a debt.

6. At all relevant times, Defendant acted as a “debt collector” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), in that it held itself out to be a company collecting a consumer debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff.

7. The aforementioned alleged debt is a “debt” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5), in that it is an alleged obligation of a consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction in which the money, property, insurance and/or services which are the subject of the transaction were primarily for personal, family and/or household purposes.

8. On information and belief, Defendant is a corporation of the State of Pennsylvania, which is licensed to do business in Michigan, and which has its principal place of business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

9. In approximately late February or early March, Defendant caused a collection letter to be mailed to Plaintiff in attempt to collect the aforementioned alleged debt.

10. On or around March 4, 2015, Plaintiff placed a telephone call to Defendant and informed an employee, agent and/or representative of Defendant that he was represented by a law firm with respect to the alleged debt and provided his attorneys’ contact information.

11. On or around March 24, 2015, Defendant caused a collection letter to be mailed to Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the alleged debt.

12. In approximately late March or early April, Plaintiff placed a telephone call to Defendant and informed an employee, agent and/or representative of Defendant that he was

represented by a law firm with respect to the alleged debt and provided his attorneys' contact information.

13. In its attempts to collect the alleged debt as outlined above, Defendant damaged Plaintiff and violated the FDCPA.

14. As a result of Defendant's actions as outlined above, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer stress, aggravation, emotional distress and mental anguish.

COUNT I

15. Plaintiff incorporates all of the allegations and statements made in paragraphs 1 through 14 above as if reiterated herein.

16. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(2) by communicating with Plaintiff after Defendant had been advised that Plaintiff was represented by an attorney with respect to the alleged debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- a. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's actual damages suffered as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(1);
- b. Judgment against Defendant for \$1,000 in statutory damages for Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other legal and/or equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT II

17. Plaintiff incorporates all of the allegations and statements made in paragraphs 1 through 14 above as if reiterated herein.

18. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress and/or abuse Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the alleged debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- a. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's actual damages suffered as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(1);
- b. Judgment against Defendant for \$1,000 in statutory damages for Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other legal and/or equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT III

19. Plaintiff incorporates all of the allegations and statements made in paragraphs 1 through 14 above as if reiterated herein.

20. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by using an unfair or unconscionable means to attempt to collect the alleged debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- a. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's actual damages suffered as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(1);
- b. Judgment against Defendant for \$1,000 in statutory damages for Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other legal and/or equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues in this action, except for any issues relating to the amount of attorneys' fees and litigation costs to be awarded should Plaintiff prevail on any of his claims in this action.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

WARREN OSTRANDER

By: /s/ Morris B. Lefkowitz
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